

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Upper and Lower Opequon Creeks. Upper Opequon Creek is listed on the 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standards for bacteria. The Upper Opequon Creek stream segment is located in Frederick County. It is 22.4 miles in length and begins at the headwaters and continues to the confluence with Abrams Creek. Lower Opequon Creek is listed on the 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standards for bacteria and the General Standard (benthics). The Lower Opequon Creek stream segment is located in Frederick County. It is 8.73 miles in length and begins at the confluence with Abrams Creek and continues downstream to the WVA state line.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

The first public meeting on the development of the Upper and Lower Opequon Creek TMDLs will be held on **Thursday, April 3, 2003, 7:00 p.m.** in the Henkel Building's Hester Auditorium which is located on the campus of Shenandoah University at 1460 University Drive in Winchester, Virginia. Driving directions are available at http://www.su.edu/find_us.asp, and a campus map at http://www.su.edu/campus_map1.html.

The public comment period for this phase of the TMDL development will end on May 3, 2003. A fact sheet on the development of the Upper and Lower Opequon Creek TMDLs is available upon request. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Sandra Mueller. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Sandra T. Mueller, Department of Environmental Quality, 629 E. Main Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23240, telephone (804) 698-4324, fax (804) 698-4116, or e-mail stmueller@deq.state.va.us.